

It seems clear that compelling service providers to allow eavesdropping will increase costs for end-users of these services. Any "back-door" method for eavesdropping on internet communications put in place for use by law enforcement could just as easily be abused by hackers and criminals. Anything that reduces the privacy of communications for well-intentioned law enforcement purposes will have the net effect of making it easier for hackers to get in as well. Witness the well-known exploits of hackers such as Kevin Mitnick abusing the telephone system through the use of back-doors built-into the telephone system for the purposes of providing law enforcement with a means of wiretapping. In this case, the back-doors were used against law enforcement officials, and only served to help the criminal perpetrate further crimes. I don't think it makes sense to require service providers to have significant infrastructure in place to allow internet wiretapping. It makes more sense to do this only on a case-by-case basis and not raise the costs of internet use for the entire country.